

SECRET

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**SUBJECT:** (Optional)

VCR Recording of Foreign Television News Broadcasts

FROM:Director, Foreign Broadcast
Information Service**EXTENSION****NO.**

FBIS-0068/85

DATE

15 February 1985

25X1

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)**DATE****RECEIVED****FORWARDED****OFFICER'S
INITIALS****COMMENTS** (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)1. Deputy Director for
Science and Technology
Room 6E45, Headquarters

2.

3. Deputy Director for
Intelligence
Room 7E47, Headquarters

4.

5. Executive Registry
Room 7E12, Headquarters

6.

7. Executive Director

8.

9. Deputy Director of
Central Intelligence

10.

11.

12. Director, Foreign
Broadcast Information
Service

13. 1013 Key Building

14.

15.

The attached is a revised version of the FBIS recommendation of 30 January on VCR recordings of newscasts and special events on television in major foreign cities. Two options are provided: (A) the 12 cities specified in the memorandum from the DDI to the DDCI, and (B) a reduced level of effort requested by the DDI in response to our memo of 30 January. FBIS proposes to accomplish the provision of video tapes by use of FBIS bureaus, independent contractors, and priority air cargo shipments. Video tapes will be converted at FBIS and delivered to OCR for distribution to DI offices.

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1-79**610**USE PREVIOUS
EDITIONS**SECRET**

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FBIS-0068/85
15 February 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director for Science and Technology
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Executive Director

FROM: [REDACTED] 25X1
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT: VCR Recording of Foreign Television News Broadcasts

REFERENCE: Memo for DDCI fm DDI, Subj: Candidate Cities for VCR
Recording of News Broadcasts, dtd 11 Jan 85

1. We are prepared to move ahead rapidly to provide the Directorate of Intelligence with VCR tapes of newscasts from television in major foreign cities. Our original proposal to cover the 12 cities specified by the DDI memorandum is included herewith as Option A; a scaled-down version, requested by the DDI to reduce costs, is included as Option B. FBIS refers to this as the "Cities" project to differentiate it from the projected live monitoring of foreign television at Langley and regular FBIS coverage of selected foreign television items.

2. In regard to Option A, in the five instances where one of our field facilities already has access to TV broadcasts (Havana, Jerusalem, [REDACTED], service will be started by the FBIS facility itself. For the other target cities, personnel from the nearest FBIS bureau will visit the site to hire and train contract personnel, arrange for equipment, and provide for transportation of the recordings. This will be done in coordination [REDACTED]. 25X1 25X1

3. Option B provides cost reductions by limiting the project to only those cities which can be covered by existing FBIS facilities-- [REDACTED] Jerusalem at Tel Aviv, Havana at Key West, and [REDACTED] Air cargo fees alone are estimated at \$182,500 per annum for the 5 cities rather than \$436,000 for the full 12 cities. Other cost comparisons are indicated at TAB A. 25X1 25X1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 25X1

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4. We plan to begin with the main evening newscast and special events at each site. This collection pattern can be altered or enlarged as experience dictates. The personnel who do the actual monitoring and recording--whether bureau personnel or contractor--will arrange for daily priority air shipment of the recorded tapes. This will normally be done under contract with air cargo forwarding firms, the fastest method short of electronic transmission. The tapes will be sent to FBIS Headquarters in Key Building where they will be converted to U.S. broadcast standard and then forwarded to OCR's Graphic Services Branch.

5. I believe we can begin supplying recordings from bureaus where we already have access to the TV target signal and contractors are not needed within 30 days. If independent contractors are necessary, service should begin within 90 days. We plan to purchase equipment in the field to shorten the start-up time. Backup equipment will be provided at each site to ensure uninterrupted service.

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Attachments:

- A. Cost Estimates - "12 Cities" and "5 Cities" Options
- B. FBIS TV Activities - Overview
- C. Schedule of Current Regular FBIS TV Coverage

CONCUR:

Option A _____
("12 Cities")

Option B _____
("5 Cities")

Deputy Director for Science and Technology

Date

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Option A _____
("12 Cities")

Option B _____
("5 Cities")

Deputy Director for Intelligence Date

Option A _____
("12 Cities")

Option B _____
("5 Cities")

Executive Director Date

APPROVED:

Option A _____
("12 Cities")

Option B _____
("5 Cities")

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence Date

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SUBJECT: VCR Recording of Foreign Television News Broadcasts

DDS&T/FBIS, [redacted] (15 Feb 85)

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Distribution:

Orig - DDCI (w/atts), return D/FBIS

- 1 - ER (w/atts)
- 1 - EXDIR (w/atts)
- 1 - DDCI (w/atts)
- 2 - DDS&T (w/atts)
- 1 - DDI (w/atts)
- 1 - C/Ops (w/atts)
- 1 - PO/RA (w/atts)
- 1 - C/LRB (w/atts)
- 1 - C/MOD (w/atts)
- 1 - C/AS (w/atts)
- 1 - AG for [redacted] (w/atts)
- 1 - D/FBIS Chrono (w/atts)
- 1 - JDC Corres file (w/atts)
- 1 - Television file (w/atts)
- 1 - FBIS Registry (w/atts)

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TAB B

FBIS TELEVISION ACTIVITIES--AN OVERVIEW

FBIS is the major producer of foreign video material in the government. Public television broadcasts of 21 countries are already being monitored in response to consumer requirements. FBIS field bureaus report to Headquarters by teletype and later forward the videotapes. Contact with DI consumers is centralized in OCR Graphics Services Branch.

1. SOURCES MONITORED

FBIS bureaus already regularly cover 310 hours of television a week from 21 countries. This includes 27 hours a week from the USSR and 35 hours from China. The bureaus also provide ad hoc coverage of special events from more than 10 additional countries not monitored on a regular basis.

The bureaus use three principal means:

- Normal terrestrial antennas, which require a location close to the transmitter,
- Reception by agencies of other governments, which record the target signals (from North Korea and East Germany) and pass them to FBIS; and
- Reception from satellite relays (mainly for Soviet and Philippine TV, and for a number of countries covered ad hoc in case of crises).

Soviet TV is monitored at London Bureau--in cooperation with the BBC--and at Okinawa bureau by means of Receive-Only Satellite Earth Terminal (ROSET) installations. Chinese TV is monitored at Hong Kong by terrestrial antennas. The programs that the bureaus cover are determined in advance and listed in a "coverage schedule."

A third ROSET installation has just gone into operation in Panama, which will provide increased coverage not only of Latin America, but also the Middle East and Europe.

2. BUREAU PROCEDURES

The bureaus select over 30 programs a week to report to Headquarters consumers in messages known as Video Selection Lists (VSLs). A foreign-national monitor (translator) views the program at the same time

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it is being recorded noting program content. Next a U.S. staff editor decides which programs or items to offer to consumers in VSLs, drawing in part on the monitor's expertise and familiarity with the media. The finished VSL is transmitted to Headquarters and to other U.S. consumer offices overseas and in the United States. Most of the important political and news material has usually been processed by FBIS from radio or news agencies before it is broadcast on television. Therefore there is usually little need for extensive translation from TV, and the VSL concentrates on describing the video content. When a broadcast item is uniquely important, reports may be passed on to consumers rapidly by the FBIS Wire Service or the Daily Report.

3. CONSUMERS, AND SELECTION FROM VSLs

The VSLs transmitted by the bureaus are entered electronically into the SAFE system at Headquarters and distributed by the Cable Dissemination Section, as well as being routed electronically to several consumers in other agencies. A consumer who finds an item of interest in these lists can obtain the tape by requesting it from OCR Graphics Services Branch.

CIA offices which are major consumers of VSLs include OGI, OSWR, SOVA, EURA, DDI/NESA, NPIC, DDO, OCR, OTE, OS, and the DDI TV Center. Outside agencies that are major consumers include DIA, the Army Foreign Science and Technology Center, and the Air Force Intelligence Service. Consumers outside of CIA which receive VSLs electronically include DOE, NSA, State Dept INR, USIA, and 12 military commands.

4. HANDLING OF VIDEOTAPES

When a consumer notifies OCR/GSB that a given video tape is wanted for viewing, the request is passed to FBIS Headquarters, which in turn requests the tape from the field bureau. The tape is normally sent to FBIS Headquarters by mail or pouch. It is passed to OCR and should reach the first consumer office within two weeks of the request date.

However, selected important tapes are sent by special airline courier services and are available to consumers within 1 or 2 days of the original broadcast. The most important items of all are relayed to Washington by international commercial satellite hookups and are provided to analysts within 1 or 2 hours of the original broadcast time. Three Moscow broadcasts last year, including Chernenko's reappearance in September after being out of sight for a time, and the Beijing transmission of China's National Day Parade, were relayed by satellite.

5. ACTION OFFICES INVOLVED

OCR/GSB is the main contact point for most consumers of FBIS video tapes.

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